AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 21-33, without prejudice or disclaimer, as listed in the following listing of the claims, which replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-19   (Cancelled).

20.   (Previously Presented) An end-user terminal equipment connected to broadband communication network having a plurality of broadband communication nodes and a plurality of broadband communication inter-node transmission lines for connecting said plurality of broadband communication nodes, the network performing information transmission by transmitting packets, each of which comprises a header field and an information field, said end-user terminal comprising:

means for performing at least one of discarding and delaying the same number of packets as equals to the subtraction between a desired actual transmission speed requested by said end-user terminal in every predetermined periodic flow control cycle and a permissible actual transmission speed permitted against said desired actual transmission speed in the order of lower priority in the event that said desired actual transmission speed does not accord with said permissible actual transmission speed when said end-user terminal transmits information composed of a plurality of said packets coded by a hierarchical coding system by using a mixed bit rate transmission service mixing up a constant bit rate part and a variable bit rate part.

21 – 33   (Cancelled).